



**KY ILN Letter of Commitment**  
**2024-2025 School Year**

**I. Statement of Purpose**

The Kentucky Innovative Learning Network (KY ILN) is a partnership between local school districts and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to provide a space for sharing innovative educational strategies, improving local learning systems, and leveraging the power of public school districts to create a future of learning in Kentucky that fulfills Kentuckians' *United We Learn* vision. The KY ILN leverages KDE's relationships with national networks and peer states to advance models of learning that can best prepare all students for postsecondary success and transform our education system.

**II. On "Innovation"**

*Definition of Innovation*

Per the [Kentucky Personalized Learning Glossary](#), **Innovation** is defined as a new or creative alternative to existing instructional and administrative practices intended to improve student learning and performance of all students. **Innovation** is a process of seeking a new approach to education with the goal of better results.

*Operationalizing Innovation in the KY ILN*

KDE recognizes that innovation is a term that is relative to the context of the school districts seeking new approaches to improve student learning, experiences, and outcomes. Innovative practices will ultimately help realize the Three Big Ideas of Kentuckians' *United We Learn* vision: **vibrant learning experiences for every student, innovation in assessment and collaboration with communities.**

In 2024, Kentucky also released the [Kentucky Innovation Guide](#) which identified six key action areas in educational innovation happening in KY ILN member districts. These action areas include: 1) **Creating portraits of a learner**, 2) **local assessment and accountability innovation**, 3) **effectively using funding to support personalization**, 4)

**leveraging graduation requirement flexibilities, 5) organizing and credentialing learning, and 6) rethinking teacher certification and professional development.**

To support KY ILN districts in their efforts to be truly innovative, the following traits are essential components of any work that seeks to innovate and improve the educational experience for students. These innovative traits include work that is *learner-centered, collaborative, competency- and/or performance-based, personalized and authentic*. The following habits also underscore innovative work: *empathy, reciprocity, co-creation and inclusion*.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive but serves to provide guidance as districts begin or continue their journey to build a bold new future for education in Kentucky.

### III. Mutual Commitments

#### Benefits of Joining the KY ILN

KDE believes that the greatest benefit of participation in the KY ILN is the opportunity to network, collaborate and learn with other Kentucky districts, trailblazing schools, organizations and thought-leaders outside of the state, and to share best practices and learning. In addition, KDE commits to the KY ILN districts by providing:

- Access to competitive grant funding for travel to model sites and innovative professional learning conferences
- A platform to showcase educational innovation happening in Kentucky schools through study tours, district spotlights and events like network presentations of learning
- Partnerships and professional learning opportunities with national thought-leaders, vendors and resources
- Ongoing technical assistance, support and continued coordination from KDE and its partners
- Opportunities for intentional collaboration and partnerships with fellow KY ILN districts to support initiatives and innovative practices
- Opportunities to pilot KDE-supported initiatives to advance education
- Access to the Kentucky Innovative Teacher Fellowship opportunity for district teachers

#### Expectations for Members

Participating districts indicate a commitment to the work of the KY ILN, which can be demonstrated by:

- Consistent attendance and active engagement of district representative(s) during virtual and in-person convenings

- Willingness to serve as a thought partner and resource to share learning with other district leaders
- Participation in KDE initiatives of interest to the district as opportunities arise; this may include pilot programs, educational research efforts, work groups, the Innovative Teacher Fellowship, etc.
- Provide ongoing feedback to KDE staff to improve the KY ILN experience, ensuring relevance and quality of member experience
- Submit an annual Letter of Commitment (LoC) to maintain membership and eligibility for competitive grants and other opportunities

IV. **Contact Information**

District Name:

Superintendent Name and Email Address:

KY ILN Point(s) of Contact Name, Title, and Email Address:

V. **District Innovation Reflections and Plans**

Reflecting on the previous year, how has your district worked to innovate by implementing new or creative alternatives to existing instructional or administrative practices to improve student learning, experiences, and outcomes?

Plans of Action: Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, how does your district plan to support innovative practices and systems that promote *vibrant learning experiences for every student, innovation in assessment and collaboration with communities?*

Learning Goal(s) or Inquiry Question: In your district teams, determine a learning goal or inquiry question that will guide deeper exploration and learning in the 2024-2025 school year. The KY ILN will use these goals and/or inquiry questions to guide partnerships, professional learning opportunities, cross-district consultancies and more.

- Note: Your learning goal or inquiry question should be specific and focused on a need/challenge that ties to one or more of the Three Big Ideas: *vibrant learning experiences, innovation (especially in assessment) and collaboration with communities.*

VI. **Agreement**

This Letter of Commitment (LoC) establishes a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education and the named district, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

KDE and the KY ILN districts agree to the principles and commitments described above and agree to work together in good faith to advance both collective and district commitments, with the intent that this work will be sustained and spread over time It is

mutually understood that this agreement in no way restricts the district in participating in similar activities with other organizations.

Amendments to the innovation priorities may be made at any time by agreement of the parties, and either party may terminate this agreement through written notice. Early termination may result in the loss of Network support, grant opportunities, and awards outlined above.

**Required Signatories**

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KY ILN participating district superintendent or designee

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Date



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Rob Collins, KDE Division of Innovation, Innovative Programs Consultant (KDE designee)

**Return this Letter of Commitment via email to:**

**Rob Collins**

Innovative Programs Consultant  
Division of Innovation  
Office of Continuous Improvement & Support

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Email: [robert.collins@education.ky.gov](mailto:robert.collins@education.ky.gov)



Kentucky Department of  
**E D U C A T I O N**